



Going for Water

Study Guide for Robert Frost's "Going for Water"

To be completed before reading the poem:

1. The author was born in 1874. Considering this, why might the speaker in the poem be "going for water?"
2. Skim through the poem to look for unfamiliar words. List them, and work with your group to look up their definitions.

To be completed while reading and re-reading the poem:

3. Where are the characters going and why? What clues support your answer?
4. Who is the "she" who found them soon?
5. Why do they hush and listen? Why is their sense of hearing more helpful than their sense of sight now?
6. What images and sounds does Frost use to describe the brook in the last stanza?

To be completed after reading the poem:

7. How do you think the characters felt when they heard the brook? Why?
8. Would you want to use brook water for bathing and drinking? Why or why not?
9. Where do the characters usually get their water? How do you think they get it to their house?
10. Do you think the characters will use the same amount, more, or less water on this day than they usually do? Why?

To be discussed with the whole class:

11. How do we get water in our homes and schools today?
12. What are some things we use water for?
13. How many gallons of water do you think you use in a day?
14. How long would it take you to haul that much water if your pump or well was 50 yards from your home?